

# Spring Turkey Hunter Questionnaire 2003

By Jessica Kitchell

## **Abstract**

Ninety-one (91.3%) percent of all spring turkey hunters that received a harvest permit hunted turkeys during the 2003 spring turkey season. The overall success rate for active hunters was 30.4%. Of the successful hunters, 1,257 harvested 1 turkey, and 9 harvested 2 turkeys. The mean number of Gobblers/Jakes seen by hunters was 5.5 compared to a mean number of hens of 8.2. Just over 72% of the respondents indicated they would like to see the number of hunting permits for their hunting zone to stay the same or decrease. Nearly 48% of the respondents indicated that turkey numbers in their hunting zones remained about the same relative to 2002. Statewide, the overall satisfaction level with the spring turkey hunt was 7.4 on a scale of 1 (worst) to 10 (best).

## **Methods**

A sample of hunter names and addresses were randomly drawn from the current spring turkey hunter permit file. A survey was mailed to 10,000 spring turkey hunters after the completion of the spring turkey season. The questionnaire was mailed in proportion to the number of permits distributed in each zone. The questionnaire asked each hunter specific questions about their spring turkey hunting experience (Figure 1). A second mailing was made to 5,000 of the non-respondents. Data from all returned questionnaires were summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

The current spring turkey hunting zones were then grouped into regional areas (Figure 2). The regions were created from zones that had similar turkey populations, hunter densities, and habitat. These regions were created so that responses could be pooled to increase the response rates in some of the less hunted zones.

## **Results**

A total of 4,566 spring turkey hunter surveys were returned. The corrected response rate was 45.6%. The proportion of respondents who applied with landowner preference for this spring's turkey hunt permit was 15.2% (Table 1, Question 1). Statewide, 51% of the respondents have 0-5 years of spring turkey hunting experience and only 5.4% have 16+ years of experience (Table 1, Question 2).

Statewide, 91.3% of the respondents hunted turkeys this spring. Of those who did not hunt, 47.6% bought a 2003 wild turkey stamp (Table 1, Question 3). The success rate for active hunters who received a harvest permit was 30.4%. This success rate may be high because hunters who were successful may have been more likely to return the survey than hunters who were unsuccessful. The spring turkey harvest registration data success rate (25.0%) is uncorrected for nonhunters and is probably a low estimate. Nearly twenty-nine percent (28.7%) of the respondents had attended a turkey hunter education clinic sponsored by the WDNR or the National Wild Turkey Federation (Table 1, Question 5).

In an attempt to increase spring turkey hunting, all surveyed hunters were asked to give their opinion on one of four hunting season changes. Statewide, favoritism (39.4%) fell with

lengthening each period to seven days, with hunting hours ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour before sunset, and issuing all permits using the current drawing system (Table 1, Question 6). Surveyed hunters were asked how difficult it was to find a place to hunt in the spring of 2003, and 87.6% of the respondents said it was 'very easy' or 'somewhat easy' (Table 1, Question 7). Spring turkey hunters were also asked to report the days on which they hunted. Hunting pressure was relatively constant with more pressure on Friday and Saturday of the hunting season (Table 1, Question 8).

Statewide, the mean # of Gobblers/Jakes seen by hunters was 5.5; the mean # of Gobblers/Jakes heard by hunters was 7.9; the mean # of Hens seen was 8.2, and the mean # of Hens heard was 5.4 (Table 1, Question 9). Most respondents (67.7%) did not shoot at the first turkey which presented an opportunity; 57.5% reported waiting for a better shot, or for an adult gobbler (Table 1, Question 10). Surveyed hunters were asked if they hit any turkeys that they were unable to retrieve: 5.3% were unable to find their bird (Table 1, Question 11). Of the successful hunters, 1,257 harvested 1 turkey, and 9 harvested 2 turkeys. Most successful hunters (83.3%) harvested their turkeys between sunrise and noon (Table 1, Question 12).

Most respondents (89.8%) hunted on private land or a combination of private and public lands (Table 1, Question 13). Under one-quarter (23.2%) responded to "other hunters kept me from hunting where I wanted to" with 'definitely yes,' or 'somewhat.' Similarly, 17.0% of respondents answered "there was too much competition from other hunters where I hunted" with 'definitely yes,' or 'somewhat.' However, only 15.0% of the respondents indicated that other hunters interfered with their chance to bag a bird (Table 1, Question 14).

Eighty-nine respondents reported knowing of 1 or more turkeys that were tagged but not registered. One hundred and twenty-eight respondents reported knowing of 1 or more turkeys that were neither tagged nor registered (Table 1, Question 15).

Overall, 41.0% of respondents rated their spring turkey hunting experience as 'very high' or 'fairly high,' while 18.4% rated their hunt as 'fairly low' or 'very low' (Table 1, Question 16). The most important factor that influenced respondents' perceptions of a quality hunt was "seeing turkeys/calling birds in/hearing gobbling". The least important factors were "killing a turkey (Tom, Jake or bearded hen)" and "weather" (Table 1, Question 17).

Most respondents (47.8%) feel that turkey numbers in the zones they hunted in the spring stayed the same relative to the year before (Table 1, Question 18). Just over seventy-two percent (72.1%) of the respondents would like to see the number of permits available for the zone(s) they hunted to stay the same or decrease (Table 1, Question 19).

Respondents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with spring turkey hunting in Wisconsin on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst; statewide, they ranked their overall satisfaction level at 7.4 (Table 1, Question 20).

**Table 1. Responses to the 2003 Spring Turkey Hunting Questionnaire.**

C= Central Region EC =East Central Region NE = North Eastern Region  
 NW= North Western Region SE =South Eastern Region SW =South Western  
 Region

1. Did you apply with landowner preference for this spring's turkey permit? (Percent)

|     | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Yes | 14.6 | 13.2 | 19.6 | 18.8 | 17.2 | 12.6 | 15.2  |
| No  | 85.4 | 86.8 | 80.4 | 81.2 | 82.8 | 87.5 | 84.8  |

2. How many years of spring turkey hunting experience do you have?

|       | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 0-5   | 57.5 | 55.8 | 71.7 | 54.4 | 54.1 | 38.2 | 51.0  |
| 6-10  | 30.4 | 33.8 | 20.4 | 28.9 | 32.5 | 30.8 | 30.0  |
| 11-15 | 8.9  | 9.0  | 5.7  | 10.7 | 10.0 | 21.9 | 13.6  |
| 16+   | 3.2  | 1.4  | 2.2  | 6.0  | 3.2  | 9.1  | 5.4   |

3. Did you hunt turkeys this spring? (Percent)

|     | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Yes | 91.1 | 91.3 | 90.1 | 93.0 | 86.7 | 92.2 | 91.3  |
| No  | 8.9  | 8.7  | 9.9  | 7.0  | 13.1 | 7.8  | 8.7   |

- If no, did you buy a 2002 wild turkey stamp? (Percent)

|     | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Yes | 52.8 | 55.4 | 47.8 | 32.7 | 51.7 | 46.2 | 47.6  |
| No  | 47.2 | 44.6 | 52.2 | 67.4 | 48.3 | 53.8 | 52.4  |

4. Please list the zone and time period your carcass tag(s) were valid for this spring? (Percent)

5. Have you ever attended a turkey hunter education clinic sponsored by the Wisconsin DNR or the National Wild Turkey Federation? (Percent)

|     | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Yes | 26.7 | 25.6 | 26.6 | 24.6 | 27.8 | 31.4 | 28.7  |
| No  | 73.3 | 74.4 | 73.4 | 75.4 | 72.2 | 68.6 | 71.3  |

6. In an attempt to increase spring turkey hunting opportunity, which of the following season changes do you favor most?

|  | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Lengthen each period to 7 days, with hunting hours ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour before sunset. Issue all permits using the current drawing system.                      | 36.8 | 38.9 | 43.0 | 41.5 | 43.0 | 37.0 | 39.4  |
| Shorten the season to four, 5-day periods, with hunting hours from ½ hour before sunrise to 5pm. Follow this with a 2-week season, and issue all permits over-the-counter. | 11.3 | 9.0  | 11.0 | 11.2 | 9.1  | 10.0 | 10.2  |
| Lengthen the season by adding an extra period at the beginning, with hunting hours from ½ hour before sunrise to 5pm. Issue all permits using the current drawing system.  | 25.5 | 25.8 | 22.1 | 20.3 | 28.1 | 26.9 | 25.1  |
| Lengthen the season to six weeks, with one opening day. Hunting hours from ½ hour before sunrise to 5pm. Issue all permits over-the-counter.                               | 26.3 | 26.3 | 23.9 | 27.1 | 19.8 | 26.0 | 25.3  |

7. How difficult was it for you to find a place to hunt in the spring of 2003? (Percent)

|                    | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Very Easy          | 53.1 | 53.8 | 52.6 | 52.6 | 50.7 | 52.0 | 52.5  |
| Somewhat Easy      | 34.9 | 33.8 | 33.6 | 35.3 | 36.1 | 36.0 | 35.1  |
| Somewhat Difficult | 10.7 | 11.3 | 13.6 | 11.5 | 12.0 | 10.5 | 11.3  |
| Very Difficult     | 1.3  | 1.1  | 0.2  | 0.6  | 1.2  | 1.6  | 1.1   |

8. Please check all the days that you hunted for turkeys this spring. (Percent)

|           | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Wednesday | 20.5 | 21.1 | 22.0 | 20.4 | 22.2 | 21.5 | 21.3  |
| Thursday  | 20.3 | 20.8 | 19.6 | 20.1 | 19.8 | 20.3 | 20.2  |
| Friday    | 22.5 | 23.0 | 21.3 | 22.9 | 20.0 | 22.6 | 22.3  |
| Saturday  | 23.0 | 21.9 | 21.8 | 23.0 | 22.3 | 23.2 | 22.7  |
| Sunday    | 13.7 | 13.3 | 15.3 | 13.5 | 15.7 | 12.4 | 13.5  |

9. Please fill in the number of turkeys you saw or heard while actively hunting. (Mean)

|                      | C   | EC  | NE  | NW  | SE  | SW  | Total |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Gobblers/Jakes seen  | 4.6 | 7.3 | 4.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.1 | 5.5   |
| Gobblers/Jakes heard | 8.1 | 6.5 | 7.6 | 9.1 | 6.6 | 8.2 | 7.9   |
| Hens Seen            | 8.9 | 8.0 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 8.2 | 7.7 | 8.2   |
| Hens Heard           | 6.4 | 4.4 | 6.0 | 5.1 | 6.0 | 5.2 | 5.4   |

10. Did you shoot at the first turkey which presented an opportunity? (Percent)

|     | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Yes | 35.0 | 30.8 | 34.6 | 33.3 | 31.1 | 31.5 | 32.3  |
| No  | 65.0 | 69.2 | 65.4 | 66.7 | 68.9 | 68.5 | 67.7  |

▪ If no, please tell us which of the following was the reason. (Percent)

|                                 | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Waiting for a better shot       | 30.0 | 31.4 | 30.2 | 29.6 | 27.9 | 29.5 | 29.7  |
| Waiting for an adult<br>gobbler | 22.5 | 24.0 | 25.6 | 28.5 | 27.6 | 31.0 | 27.8  |
| Waiting for a larger bird       | 4.9  | 5.5  | 8.5  | 7.8  | 9.2  | 6.0  | 6.7   |
| Wanted to hunt longer           | 5.2  | 5.3  | 4.9  | 5.9  | 2.2  | 3.7  | 4.5   |
| Other                           | 37.5 | 33.8 | 30.8 | 28.3 | 33.0 | 29.8 | 31.4  |

11. Did you hit a turkey you were unable to retrieve? (Percent)

|     | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Yes | 4.2  | 4.0  | 5.0  | 6.3  | 6.3  | 5.5  | 5.3   |
| No  | 95.9 | 96.1 | 95.0 | 93.8 | 93.7 | 94.5 | 94.7  |

▪ If yes, how many? (Frequency)

| Number of Turkeys | C  | EC | NE | NW | SE | SW | Total |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1                 | 13 | 18 | 14 | 34 | 21 | 57 | 157   |
| 2                 | 1  | 1  | 0  | 2  | 0  | 4  | 8     |

12. How many turkeys did you harvest this spring? (Frequency)

| Number of Turkeys | C   | EC  | NE  | NW  | SE  | SW  | Total |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1                 | 129 | 206 | 157 | 226 | 158 | 381 | 1,257 |
| 2                 | 0   | 2   | 2   | 3   | 0   | 2   | 9     |

- What time did you harvest your turkey(s)? (Percent)

|             | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Sunrise-9am | 54.4 | 58.1 | 69.5 | 60.5 | 73.8 | 55.9 | 60.3  |
| 9am-Noon    | 21.5 | 22.7 | 15.2 | 24.3 | 13.4 | 25.2 | 23.0  |
| Noon-3pm    | 12.8 | 11.4 | 8.6  | 10.9 | 6.4  | 10.9 | 10.4  |
| 3pm-5pm     | 11.4 | 7.9  | 6.6  | 4.4  | 6.4  | 7.9  | 7.3   |

13. Did you hunt on: (Percent)

|                              | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Public Land                  | 37.4 | 11.3 | 11.2 | 3.6  | 12.8 | 4.6  | 10.3  |
| Your Own Land                | 14.7 | 26.1 | 21.3 | 17.9 | 17.7 | 15.5 | 18.4  |
| Other Private Land           | 30.2 | 47.2 | 51.4 | 65.1 | 56.8 | 72.3 | 59.2  |
| Both Public and Private Land | 17.7 | 15.4 | 16.1 | 13.3 | 12.8 | 7.6  | 12.2  |

14. Other hunters may have affected your turkey hunt. For each statement below, please check the response which best reflects your 2002 spring hunt. (Percent)

- Other hunters sometimes kept me from hunting where I wanted to.

|                | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Definitely Yes | 11.3 | 9.6  | 5.3  | 9.9  | 10.1 | 10.1 | 9.6   |
| Somewhat       | 14.5 | 12.0 | 14.6 | 13.5 | 13.3 | 13.8 | 13.6  |
| Not Much       | 17.2 | 14.1 | 17.2 | 18.8 | 15.2 | 16.2 | 16.4  |
| No, Not At All | 56.9 | 64.3 | 62.7 | 57.8 | 61.5 | 59.9 | 60.4  |

- There was too much competition from other hunters where I hunted.

|                | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Definitely Yes | 4.2  | 4.6  | 3.5  | 4.7  | 4.3  | 3.7  | 4.1   |
| Somewhat       | 15.0 | 11.8 | 12.2 | 13.7 | 13.1 | 12.6 | 12.9  |
| Not Much       | 24.7 | 23.4 | 23.6 | 25.3 | 23.6 | 25.0 | 24.5  |
| No, Not At All | 56.1 | 60.1 | 60.8 | 56.2 | 59.0 | 58.7 | 58.5  |

- Other hunters interfered with my chance to bag a bird.

|                | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Definitely Yes | 8.3  | 7.1  | 6.1  | 5.2  | 6.9  | 4.4  | 5.8   |
| Somewhat       | 8.3  | 9.2  | 8.4  | 10.2 | 9.5  | 9.1  | 9.2   |
| Not Much       | 16.7 | 15.5 | 16.8 | 16.8 | 16.4 | 17.5 | 16.8  |
| No, Not At All | 66.7 | 68.2 | 68.8 | 67.7 | 67.3 | 69.1 | 68.2  |

15. How many turkeys do you know of that were shot by people this spring and were:

- Tagged but not registered

| Number of Turkeys | C | EC | NE | NW | SE | SW | Total |
|-------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1                 | 3 | 3  | 5  | 8  | 9  | 11 | 39    |
| 2                 | 1 | 4  | 1  | 1  | 1  | 5  | 13    |
| 3                 | 2 | 2  | 2  | 2  | 1  | 2  | 11    |
| > 4               | 2 | 5  | 4  | 6  | 2  | 7  | 26    |

- Not tagged or registered

| Number of Turkeys | C | EC | NE | NW | SE | SW | Total |
|-------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1                 | 5 | 10 | 9  | 14 | 9  | 24 | 71    |
| 2                 | 4 | 2  | 2  | 3  | 6  | 13 | 30    |
| 3                 | 0 | 2  | 1  | 5  | 2  | 2  | 12    |
| > 4               | 0 | 0  | 4  | 4  | 2  | 5  | 15    |

16. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your spring 2002 Wisconsin wild turkey hunt this year? (Percent)

|             | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Very High   | 22.7 | 15.8 | 18.9 | 19.7 | 22.7 | 20.0 | 19.7  |
| Fairly High | 17.6 | 19.3 | 24.3 | 22.2 | 23.6 | 21.1 | 21.3  |
| Average     | 40.3 | 41.3 | 35.7 | 42.5 | 36.7 | 42.3 | 40.6  |
| Fairly Low  | 14.4 | 16.9 | 14.2 | 11.0 | 12.8 | 11.5 | 13.0  |
| Very Low    | 4.9  | 6.7  | 7.0  | 4.6  | 4.1  | 5.2  | 5.4   |

17. Rate the factors that most influence your perception of a "quality" spring turkey hunt. Enter a value of 1 to 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most effect and "7" having the least effect on your hunting experience. (Mean)

| Factor   | C   | EC  | NE  | NW  | SE  | SW  | Total |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| An Opportunity to kill a turkey                  | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4   |
| Seeing turkeys/calling birds in/hearing gobbling | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3   |
| Killing a turkey (Tom, Jake or bearded hen)      | 4.7 | 3.5 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 4.7   |
| Killing a mature Tom                             | 4.7 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.2   |
| Weather  | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.7   |
| Not seeing other hunters                         | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5   |
| Spending time with friends and family            | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 3.8   |

18. Do you feel that the turkey numbers have changed from last year in the zones(s) you hunted this spring? (percent)

|                        | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Increased              | 24.3 | 20.8 | 29.7 | 28.1 | 34.2 | 18.3 | 23.8  |
| Stay the same          | 45.0 | 46.4 | 40.6 | 51.5 | 41.0 | 51.4 | 47.8  |
| Decreased              | 19.7 | 26.7 | 19.8 | 12.7 | 16.2 | 24.6 | 21.0  |
| Did not hunt same zone | 10.5 | 6.0  | 9.7  | 7.7  | 8.7  | 5.6  | 7.3   |

19. Would you like to see the number of permits available for the zone(s) you hunted changed? (Percent)

|               | C    | EC   | NE   | NW   | SE   | SW   | Total |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Increased     | 30.0 | 29.8 | 35.6 | 30.5 | 32.1 | 21.8 | 28.0  |
| Stay the same | 65.7 | 64.3 | 59.5 | 67.6 | 64.9 | 73.1 | 67.7  |
| Decreased     | 4.3  | 5.9  | 4.9  | 1.9  | 2.9  | 5.1  | 4.4   |

20. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst, how would you rate the quality of the DNR's turkey management program? (Mean)

|        | C   | EC  | NE  | NW  | SE  | SW  | Total |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Rating | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.4   |



Dear Turkey Hunter:

We are surveying a sample of Wisconsin wild turkey hunting permit holders to obtain needed information for managing Wisconsin's turkeys and setting permit levels. Please take a few minutes to complete the attached voluntary questionnaire. Completion of this survey is voluntary. Your participation in this survey will help us continue to progress in restoring wild turkeys to Wisconsin and in providing Wisconsin hunters with a quality hunt. You should complete this questionnaire even if you did not hunt or harvest a turkey. Please note information on this form will remain confidential and will not be used for any other purpose.

When you have finished, reverse the flap on this questionnaire, tape the edge and mail. Using your stamp will save the Department funds needed for management, even though no postage is required to return the questionnaire.

Sincerely,

Keith Warnke  
Upland Ecologist

|  |  |   |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p>1. Did you apply with landowner preference for this spring's turkey hunt permit? <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</span></p>  | <p>2. How many years of spring turkey hunting experience do you have? (Check ONE)<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> 0-5    <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10    <input type="checkbox"/> 11-15    <input type="checkbox"/> 16+</p>   |   |  |   |   |
| <p>3. Did you hunt turkeys this spring? <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</span><br/>         If no, did you buy a 2003 wild turkey stamp? <span style="float: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</span></p>  | <p>4. Please list the zone and time period your carcass tag(s) were valid for this spring:<br/>         Zone: _____ Period: _____<br/>         Zone: _____ Period: _____<br/>         (Note: See map and Seasonal Dates)</p> |   |  |   |   |
| <p>5. Have you ever attended a turkey hunter education clinic sponsored by the Wisconsin DNR and/or the National Wild Turkey Federation?<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>   |  |   |  |   |   |
| <p>6. In an attempt to increase spring turkey hunting opportunity, which of the following season changes do you favor most? (Select <b>ONLY ONE</b>)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lengthen each period to 7 days (Wed-Tues), with hunting hours from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour before sunset. Issue all permits using the current drawing system.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shorten the season to four, 5-day periods, with hunting hours from ½ hour before sunrise to 5 p.m. Follow this with a 2 week season, and issue all permits over-the-counter beginning in the middle of May.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lengthen the season by adding an extra 5-day period at the beginning of the season, with hunting hours from ½ hour before sunrise to 5p.m. Issue all permits using the current drawing system.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lengthen the season to 6 weeks of hunting, with <b>ONE</b> opening day. Hunting hours from ½ hour before sunrise to 5 p.m. Issue all permits over-the-counter.</p> |  |   |  |   |   |
| <p><b>IF YOU DID NOT HUNT, PLEASE STOP HERE AND RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE.</b></p>  |  |   |  |   |   |
| <p>7. How difficult was it for you to find a place to hunt in the spring of 2003?<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Very easy    <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat easy    <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat difficult    <input type="checkbox"/> Very difficult</p>  |  |   |  |   |   |
| <p>8. Please list the zone(s) and time period(s) and check all the days that you hunted for turkeys this spring. (If your tags were for one zone and time period, fill out one column only.)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">                 Zone: _____ Period: _____<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Friday<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday             </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">                 Zone: _____ Period: _____<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Friday<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday             </td> </tr> </table>  | Zone: _____ Period: _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Thursday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Friday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Saturday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sunday              | Zone: _____ Period: _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Thursday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Friday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Saturday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sunday | <p>9. Please fill in the number of turkeys you saw or heard while actively hunting. (If your tags were for one zone and time period, fill out one column only.)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">                 Zone: _____ Period: _____<br/>                 _____ Gobblers/Jakes seen<br/>                 _____ Gobblers/Jakes heard<br/>                 _____ Hens seen<br/>                 _____ Hens heard             </td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">                 Zone: _____ Period: _____<br/>                 _____ Gobblers/Jakes seen<br/>                 _____ Gobblers/Jakes heard<br/>                 _____ Hens seen<br/>                 _____ Hens heard             </td> </tr> </table> | Zone: _____ Period: _____<br>_____ Gobblers/Jakes seen<br>_____ Gobblers/Jakes heard<br>_____ Hens seen<br>_____ Hens heard | Zone: _____ Period: _____<br>_____ Gobblers/Jakes seen<br>_____ Gobblers/Jakes heard<br>_____ Hens seen<br>_____ Hens heard |
| Zone: _____ Period: _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Thursday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Friday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Saturday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sunday  | Zone: _____ Period: _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Thursday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Friday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Saturday<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sunday              |   |  |   |   |
| Zone: _____ Period: _____<br>_____ Gobblers/Jakes seen<br>_____ Gobblers/Jakes heard<br>_____ Hens seen<br>_____ Hens heard  | Zone: _____ Period: _____<br>_____ Gobblers/Jakes seen<br>_____ Gobblers/Jakes heard<br>_____ Hens seen<br>_____ Hens heard  |   |  |   |   |

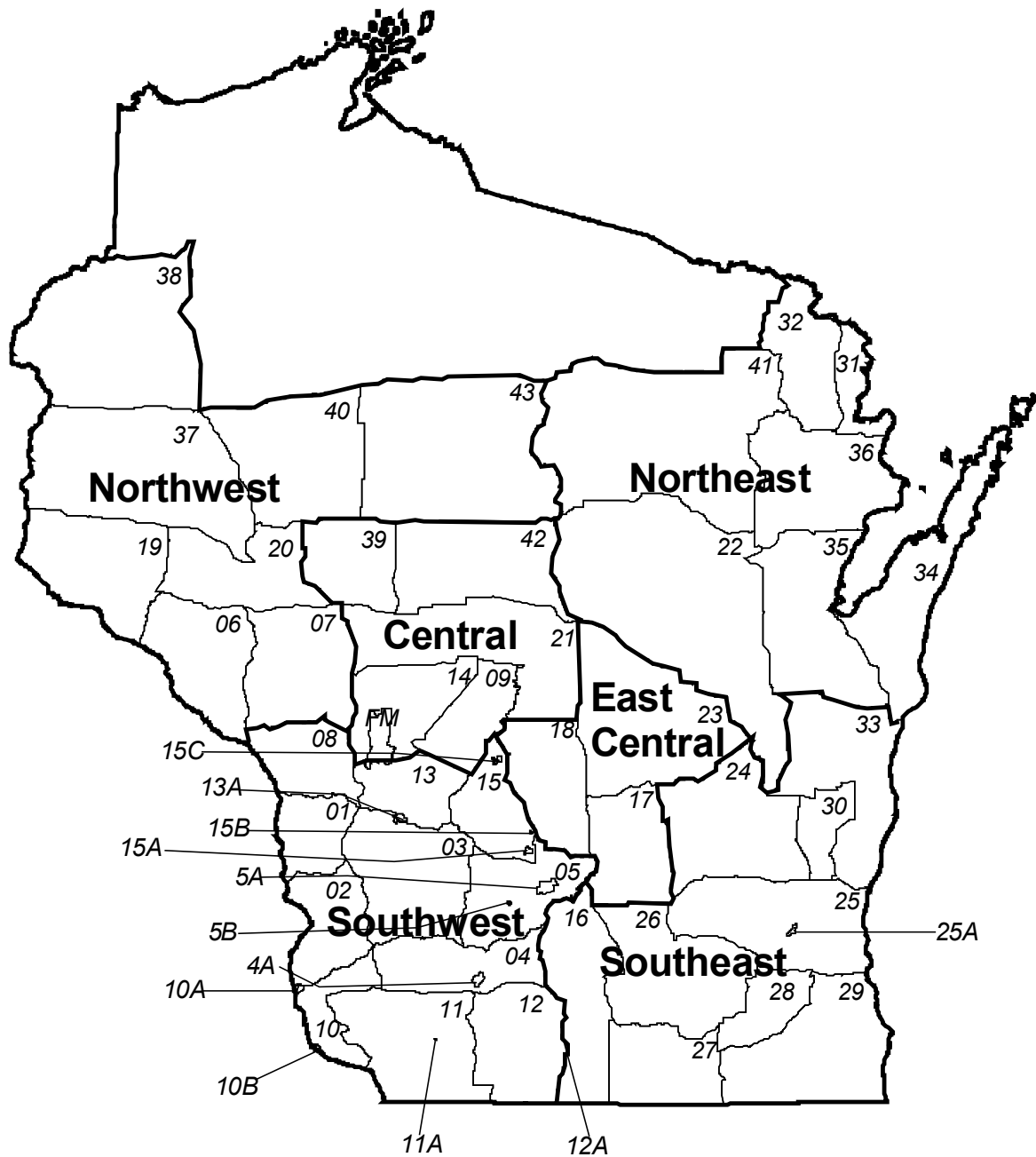
**Figure 1. 2003 Spring Turkey Hunting Questionnaire.**

| <p>10. Did you shoot at the first turkey which presented an opportunity?<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, please tell us which of the following was the reason.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Waiting for a better shot.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Waiting for an adult gobbler. (Did not want to shoot a jake.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Waiting for a larger bird.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Wanted to hunt longer.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) _____</p>   | <p>11. Did you hit a turkey you were unable to retrieve?<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No      If yes, how many? _____</p> <hr/> <p>12. How many turkeys did you harvest this spring?<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> 0    <input type="checkbox"/> 1    <input type="checkbox"/> 2</p> <p>What time did you harvest your turkey(s)?</p> <p>Turkey #1: <input type="checkbox"/> Sunrise-9 am   <input type="checkbox"/> 9 am-Noon   <input type="checkbox"/> Noon-3 pm   <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pm-5 pm</p> <p>Turkey #2: <input type="checkbox"/> Sunrise-9 am   <input type="checkbox"/> 9 am-Noon   <input type="checkbox"/> Noon-3 pm   <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pm-5 pm</p>  |   |  |                            |          |                |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                            |                            |                            |                            |
|---|--|---|--|----------------------------|----------|----------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <p>13. Did you hunt on:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Public land    <input type="checkbox"/> Your own land    <input type="checkbox"/> Other Private land    <input type="checkbox"/> Both public and private land</p>   |  |   |  |                            |          |                |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                            |                            |                            |                            |
| <p>14. Other hunters may have affected your turkey hunt. For each statement below, please check the response which best reflects your 2003 spring hunt.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Definitely Yes</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Somewhat</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Not Much</th> <th style="text-align: center;">No, Not At All</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Other hunters sometimes kept me from hunting where I wanted to.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>There was too much competition from other hunters where I hunted.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other hunters interfered with my chance to bag a bird.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 2</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 3</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/> 4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> |  |   | Definitely Yes   | Somewhat                   | Not Much | No, Not At All | Other hunters sometimes kept me from hunting where I wanted to. | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | There was too much competition from other hunters where I hunted. | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Other hunters interfered with my chance to bag a bird. | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
|   | Definitely Yes   | Somewhat  | Not Much   | No, Not At All             |          |                |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                            |                            |                            |                            |
| Other hunters sometimes kept me from hunting where I wanted to.   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1   | <input type="checkbox"/> 2  | <input type="checkbox"/> 3   | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |          |                |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                            |                            |                            |                            |
| There was too much competition from other hunters where I hunted.   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1   | <input type="checkbox"/> 2  | <input type="checkbox"/> 3   | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |          |                |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                            |                            |                            |                            |
| Other hunters interfered with my chance to bag a bird.  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1   | <input type="checkbox"/> 2  | <input type="checkbox"/> 3   | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |          |                |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                            |                            |                            |                            |
| <p>15. How many turkeys do you know of that were shot by people this spring and were:</p> <p>Tagged but not registered _____</p> <p>Not tagged or registered _____</p> <p>(Note: You will NOT be contacted about this.)</p>   | <p>16. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your spring 2003 Wisconsin wild turkey hunt this year? (Check ONE)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very High      <input type="checkbox"/> About Average      <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly Low</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fairly High      <input type="checkbox"/> Very Low</p>   |   |  |                            |          |                |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                            |                            |                            |                            |
| <p>17. Rate the factors that most influence your perception of a "quality" spring turkey hunt. Enter a value of 1 to 7 next to each statement, with "1" having the most effect and "7" having the least effect on your hunting experience.</p> <p>_____ An opportunity to kill a turkey</p> <p>_____ Seeing turkeys/Calling birds in/hearing gobbling</p> <p>_____ Killing a turkey (Tom, Jake or bearded hen)</p> <p>_____ Killing a mature Tom</p> <p>_____ Weather</p> <p>_____ Not seeing other hunters</p> <p>_____ Spending time with friends and family</p>  | <p>18. Do you feel that the turkey numbers have changed from last year in the zone(s) you hunted this spring? (If your tags were for one zone, fill out one column only.)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Zone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decreased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not hunt same zone</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Zone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decreased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not hunt same zone</p> </td> </tr> </table> | <p>Zone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decreased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not hunt same zone</p> | <p>Zone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decreased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not hunt same zone</p>  |                            |          |                |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                            |                            |                            |                            |
| <p>Zone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decreased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not hunt same zone</p>   | <p>Zone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decreased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not hunt same zone</p>  |   |  |                            |          |                |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                            |                            |                            |                            |
| <p>19. Would you like to see the number of permits available for the zone(s) you hunted changed? (If your tags were for one zone, fill out one column only.)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Zone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decreased</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Zone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decreased</p> </td> </tr> </table>   | <p>Zone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decreased</p>   | <p>Zone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decreased</p>  | <p>20. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the best and 1 being the worst, rate your overall satisfaction with spring turkey hunting in Wisconsin.</p> <p>Circle one:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10</p> |                            |          |                |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                            |                            |                            |                            |
| <p>Zone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decreased</p>  | <p>Zone: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Increased</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stay the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Decreased</p>   |   |  |                            |          |                |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |   |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                            |                            |                            |                            |

**Seasonal Dates:**

| Period | Dates            |
|--------|------------------|
| A      | April 16 - 20    |
| B      | April 23 - 27    |
| C      | April 30 - May 4 |
| D      | May 7 - 11       |
| E      | May 14 - 18      |
| F      | May 21 - 25      |

**Figure 1. Continued.**



**Figure 2.** Turkey Regions.